

## **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 27, 2003**

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on January 27, 2003 in Room 830, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

In the absence of a quorum, President Jernigan called a meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 10:03 a.m, followed by introductions. The following Commissioners were present for the roll call:

President Jernigan  
Treasurer Lesser  
Commissioner Cooperman  
Commissioner Duba  
Commissioner Morgan  
Commissioner Mummey  
Commissioner Rodriguez

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Jernigan reported the following:

- She gave a tribute to Candida D'Amato, who worked tirelessly on the Prostitution Issues Committee and was a champion for women's rights. The Commission then paused for a moment of silence in honor of her memory.
- She thanked Commissioner Duba, other Commissioners and staff for organizing the Scholarship Ceremony/Reception for Girls "At Risk" on January 14, 2003.
- Noting that this month is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, she spoke on her participation in the pro-choice movement.
- Proposed cutbacks in the Sheriff's Department budget may lead to layoffs and the release of inmates.
- She presented business card holders, which will be used as Commission commemorative gifts for guests.
- House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi sent her a letter in response to President Jernigan's congratulatory letter.
- The Crenshaw Christian Center will hold a press conference to announce that Dr. Betty Price will be honored as a Woman of the Year Awardee.

(Commissioners Carpenter-McMillan and Perkins joined the meeting during the President's Report, constituting a quorum.)

Commissioner Carpenter-McMillan spoke on her anti-abortion views. She also expressed concern about the proposed release of a convicted child molester in West Covina.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, and unanimously carried, the minutes of January 13, 2003 were approved with the following addition indicated in bold italics:

Commissioner Mummey reported on a meeting of the Santa Monica ***Hospital*** Auxiliary in which the nursing shortage was discussed.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Jim Corbett, Executive Office, reported that on Tuesday, January 28, the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the proposed reductions in health services at Los Angeles County /U.S.C. Medical Center and Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

### **VIDEO PRESENTATION ON WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN**

Commissioner Perkins presented a video documenting the suffering and abuse of women under Taliban rule in Afghanistan. She noted that although the Taliban government has been removed from power, some of the oppressive conditions for women still remain.

(Commissioners Becerra Jones and Creary joined the meeting during the presentation.)

Introduction of audience followed.

### **REPORT ON SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION**

Commissioner Duba reported on the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Reception for Girls "At Risk" on January 14, 2003. Twenty-two scholarship recipients participated in the program and President Jernigan was the Mistress of Ceremonies.

Commissioners commended Commissioners Duba and Becerra Jones for the successful program. They discussed changing the order of the program next year and encouraging the scholarship recipients to dress appropriately for the Board of Supervisors ceremony.

President Jernigan reminded Commissioners to turn off their cell phones and pagers during the meeting. As an alternative, staff in the Commission Office can take phone messages for Commissioners during the meeting.

### **ESTABLISH POLICY FOR SENDING CONDOLENCES TO COMMISSIONERS**

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Mummey, seconded by Commissioner Carpenter McMillan, and duly carried, with Commissioner Rodriguez opposing and a friendly amendment by Commissioner Mummey to limit the amount spent for each instance to \$100.00, the Commission established a policy to send flowers and other expressions of sympathy to Commissioners and staff.

### **UPDATE ON AWARDS LUNCHEON PLANNING**

On behalf of Vice President Mariajimenez, Treasurer Lesser reported the following:

- 1,400 invitations have been mailed.
- The Gas Company has purchased a diamond sponsorship.
- Commissioners were encouraged to contact potential corporate sponsors and to purchase a table.
- Staff submitted artwork to the graphics department for the Souvenir Journal.
- The second press release and second letter to corporate sponsors will be sent this week.

### **APPROVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE CANDIDA D'AMATO MEMORIAL FUND**

On motion of Commissioner Creary, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, and unanimously carried, with a friendly amendment by Commissioner Rodriguez to increase the contribution from \$100.00 to \$200.00, the Commission approved a contribution of \$200.00 to the Candida D'Amato Memorial Fund.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Health Committee**

Commissioner Creary reported that she will reschedule today's committee meeting. At the next meeting the committee will discuss goals and objectives. Also, she and Commissioner Rodriguez attended the Cervical Cancer Prevention and Education Initiative Community Breakfast on January 15, 2003. In addition, she will be meeting with District Health Deputies to discuss the impact of cutbacks on health care to women and children.

President Jernigan reported that the American Cancer Society invited her to a planning meeting of the "Tell a Friend" program on February 6, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. at the Community Health Council in Los Angeles. She requested staff to forward information on this meeting to Commissioners.

Following discussion, the Commission requested staff to invite the Acting Director of the Office of Women's Health to a future Commission meeting to provide an update on their activities and programs.

### **Media/Public Relations Committee**

Commissioner Morgan reported that the Committee met this morning. Commissioners discussed the need to have more frequent updates on the website.

President Jernigan asked staff to agendaize a discussion on hiring an outside staff person to update the website twice a month.

Commissioners requested staff to update the website with information on the Awards Luncheon by the end of the week. Roxane Marquez, First District, indicated that she is working on Supervisor Molina's website and expressed interest in working on the Commission's website.

Commissioner Morgan distributed a newsletter proposal to the Commission.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Genevieve Clavreul noted that the Chief Administrative Office has published guidelines for commission websites.

### **Older Women's Issues Committee**

Commissioner Mummey reported that the committee will meet March 19 at 1:30 p.m. and will discuss goals for the committee. She also announced the Los Angeles County Area Commission on Aging, Older Women's Issues conference in Cerritos on July 26, 2003.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Genevieve Clavreul presented a report on a public hearing concerning the nurse shortage.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Perkins reported the following:

- At its December 20, 2002 meeting the Women's Appointment Collaboration began planning an upcoming reception for new commissioners and a Get Appointed Workshop.
- She attended a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. dinner celebration of the Southern California Leadership Conference at the Biltmore Hotel.

- She participated in the Business and Professional Women's Annual Conference at the Airtel Hotel. The theme was "Where are Women Going in 2003 and Beyond."

Treasurer Lesser reported that the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce is planning a women in business conference on April 25, 2003.

Commissioner Cooperman reported that the California Women's Law Center met to discuss reviving the Coalition of Reproductive Rights. She also reported on a Roe vs. Wade demonstration on Wednesday, January 22, 2003 at the Federal Building in West Los Angeles.

### **MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA**

Commissioner Carpenter McMillan requested placing on the next agenda a discussion on writing a letter to the City of West Covina on the release from prison of a sex offender. Staff will contact the City of West Covina for more information.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Genevieve Clavreul spoke on the proposed closure of the Rancho Los Amigos hospital.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **COMMISSIONERS**

Ruth Jernigan, President  
Charlotte Lesser, Treasurer  
Yolanda Becerra-Jones  
Susan Carpenter-McMillan  
Roslyn Cooperman  
Ruth Creary, Ph.D  
Reiko Duba  
Lila Morgan  
Janet Mummey, Esq  
Barbara Perkins  
Olivia Rodriguez

### **EXCUSED**

Yvonne Mariajimenez, Esq., Vice President  
Susan Carpenter-McMillan  
June Dunbar

### **UNEXCUSED**

Sophia Esparza  
Brenda C. Smith, M.D.

### **COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

Roxane Marquez, First District  
Khanh Nguyen, Executive Office  
Jim Corbett, Executive Office  
Cheryl Diaz, Executive Office  
Steve Erickson, Executive Office  
Angel Triola, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance

### **GUESTS**

Genevieve Clavreul  
Kiywhanna Kellup, Peace & Joy Care Center